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Two to Lose Passports for China Visits

Associated Press

The State Department intends to withdraw the passports of two Americans for making unauthorized visits to Communist China, a spokesman said yesterday.

Press officer Robert J. McCloskey said John Noel Hawkins and George Paul Sarent will lose their passports upon their expected return to Honolulu shortly.

He said they and Thelma Steichen went to Red China, Aug. 7 in violation of the State Department's ban on travel by Americans to the Communist-controlled Asian mainland. Sarent and Hawkins were last reported to be in Tokyo.

State Department regulations forbid travel by Americans, except with special permission, to the Communist-controlled areas of Asia, to Albania and to Cuba.

The Department normally cancels the passports of persons found to have violated its travel ban.